<u>**IN THE CLAIMS**</u>:

Please amend claims 1-3, 5, 8-11, 13, and 16 as follows.

1.   (Currently Amended) A security association establishment negotiation method comprising:

forwarding identifying information and a request for a security association from a ~~M~~mobile ~~N~~node via a first interface to a first network element;

forwarding the identifying information and the request for a security association from the first network element to a second network element via a second interface;

performing negotiations between the first network element and the second network element via the second interface to establish a security association between the ~~M~~mobile ~~N~~node and the first network element, the second network element utilizing previously stored security association parameters of the ~~M~~mobile ~~N~~node; and

upon agreement between the first network element and the second network element with regard to the security association parameters, the first network element forwarding the agreed-upon security association parameters negotiated between the first network element and the second network element to the ~~M~~mobile ~~N~~node via the first interface.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein performing negotiations between the first network element and the second network element via the second interface includes exchanging parameters for the establishment of the ~~S~~security ~~A~~association.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the first interface comprises a wireless interface to forward information between the ~~M~~mobile ~~N~~node and the first network element.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the first network element is connected to a first gateway.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the first gateway comprises a~~n~~ ~~AAA (A~~authentication, ~~A~~authorization, and ~~A~~accounting~~)~~ (AAA) server.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the second network element comprises a subscriber database and an authentication center.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the second network element further comprises a second gateway connected to the subscriber database and authentication center.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the second gateway comprises a~~n~~ ~~AAA (A~~authentication, ~~A~~authorization, and ~~A~~accounting~~)~~ (AAA) server.

9.   (Currently Amended) A security association establishment negotiation apparatus for a ~~M~~mobile ~~N~~node, the apparatus comprising:
   a first interface connected to a first network element to forward identifying information and the request for a ~~S~~security ~~A~~association from the ~~M~~mobile ~~N~~node to the first network element; and

a second interface connected between the first network element and a second network element, configured to forward the identifying information and the request for a Ssecurity Aassociation from the first network element to the second network element, the first network element performing negotiations between the first network element and the second network element to establish a Ssecurity Aassociation between the Mmobile Nnode and the first network element utilizing Ssecurity Aassociation parameters of the Mmobile Nnode previously stored in the second network element;

wherein, upon agreement between the first network element and the second network element with regard to the Ssecurity Aassociation parameters, the first network element forwarding the agreed-upon Ssecurity Aassociation parameters negotiated between the first network element and the second network element to the Mmobile Nnode via the first interface.

10.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein performing negotiations between the first network element and the second network element via the second interface includes exchanging parameters for the establishment of the Ssecurity Aassociation.

11.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the first interface comprises a wireless interface to forward information between the Mmobile Nnode and the first network element.

12.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the first network element is connected to a first gateway.

4

13.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the first gateway comprises a~~n~~n ~~AAA (A~~authentication, ~~A~~authorization, and ~~A~~accounting~~)~~(AAA) server.

14.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the second network element comprises a subscriber database and an authentication center.

15.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the second network element further comprises a second gateway connected to the subscriber database and authentication center.

16.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the second gateway comprises a~~n~~n ~~AAA (A~~authentication, authorization, and accounting~~)~~ (AAA) server.